

APR 24 2007

67,108-089

In the claims.

This listing of claims replaces all previous listings of claims for this application.

1-19. Cancelled.

20. (New) A method of wireless communication, comprising:

monitoring a plurality of frames on a channel;

determining at least one window-based decision metric based on a sector switching indicator in at least one frame within a window containing at least two frames;

determining a number of frames within the window that contain the sector switching indicator; and

determining whether a sector switch is desired based on the determined at least one decision metric and the determined number of frames.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, comprising

determining a set of first window-based decision metrics based on the frames within the window;

determining a set of second window-based decision metrics based on the frames within the window;

determining which of the determined second metrics is the largest metric;

determining whether the determined largest metric exceeds a selected threshold plus an accumulated value of the first metrics over the window.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, comprising

determining that a mobile station transmitting data in the frames within the window provided the sector switching indicator based on whether the determined largest metric exceeds the selected threshold plus the accumulated value of the first metrics.

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23. (New) The method of claim 22, comprising
determining a pilot signal to noise ratio for each sector in an active set of the mobile station for confirming the determining that the mobile station provided a valid sector switching indicator.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, comprising
determining a time when a first one of the determined number of frames was sent; and
using the determined time to predict when a mobile station will switch to a sector corresponding to the sector switching indicator.

25. (New) The method of claim 20, comprising
comparing a pilot signal-to-noise ratio for each of an active set of sectors with a signal-to-noise ratio threshold; and
indicating an acceptable signal link if the corresponding pilot signal-to-noise ratio is greater than the signal-to-noise ratio threshold.

26. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein determining whether a sector switch is desired is a preliminary switch detection decision, and the method comprises
forwarding the preliminary switch detection decision to a central entity; and
conducting a final switch detection decision based on a plurality of preliminary switch detection decisions.

27. (New) The method of claim 20, comprising
establishing a window length including a selected number of frames;
performing the monitoring step and the determining steps using a first plurality of frames within the window length; and
sliding the window to a second plurality of frames that includes a next subsequent frame and all but an oldest one of the first plurality of frames.

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28. (New) The method of claim 20, comprising
obtaining a serving metric corresponding to a normal channel quality report for a serving
sector; and

obtaining a target metric corresponding to a highest probability that the sector switching
indicator has been sent to any one of an active set of sectors.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, comprising:
accumulating a plurality of the target metrics over the window;
selecting a largest target metric out of the plurality of target metrics; and
indicating a likelihood that the sector switching indicator has been sent if the largest
target metric is above the serving metric plus a threshold.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, comprising
estimating a sector switch completion time.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, comprising
directing the serving sector to release a corresponding mobile device at a time selected
based on the estimated sector switch completion time; and
notifying the active set of sectors of the selected time.

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32. (New) A method of detecting a sector switching indicator, comprising:
conducting a plurality of preliminary switch detection decisions in a baseband processor stage, wherein each preliminary switch detection decision corresponds to one of a plurality of active set sectors and each preliminary switch detection decision is based upon at least one metric determined over a window containing a plurality of frames and a sector switching indicator detected within at least one of the plurality of frames;
forwarding the plurality of preliminary switch detection decisions to a base station stage;
conducting a second switch detection decision based on the plurality of preliminary switch detection decisions in the base station stage; and
determining whether the sector switching indicator has been sent based on the second switch detection decision in the base station stage.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the second switch detection decision is a final switch detection decision.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of conducting the second switch detection decision comprises conducting a plurality of second switch detection decisions, and wherein the determining step comprises
conducting a third switch detection decision based on the plurality of second switch detection decisions; and
determining whether the sector switching indicator has been sent from the third switch detection decision.